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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/905,298

07/12/2001

Mark Stephen Webb

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06/13/2006

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EXAMINER

BASOM, BLAINE T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2173

DATE MAILED: 06/13/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/905,298

Applicant(s)

WEBB, MARK STEPHEN

Examiner

Blaine Basom

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 March 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-11,13-21 and 23-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-11,13-21 and 23-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 July 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

This Office action is responsive to the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) filed under 37 CFR §1.53(d) for the instant application on 3/23/2006. The Applicants have properly set forth the RCE, which has been entered into the application, and an examination on the merits follows herewith.

Response to Arguments

The Examiner acknowledges the Applicant's amendments to claims 1, 7, 11, 17, 21, and 27. Regarding independent claims 1, 11, and 21, the Applicant generally argues that Janssen (U.S. Patent No. 6,512,529 to Janssen et al.), presented in the previous Office Action, fails to disclose or suggest displaying a complete dialog window by moving a cursor into a title bar of a collapsed dialog window, wherein the collapsed dialog window is a size of and comprises a title bar of the complete dialog window. The Examiner respectfully disagrees with this argument. As is more fully shown below, Janssen in fact teaches displaying a collapsed version of a dialog window, wherein the collapsed version is a size of and comprises a title bar of the dialog window. Janssen teaches hiding various portions of a window in response to moving a cursor off of the window. For example, Janssen specifically discloses that only the title bar of the window may remain displayed. Janssen thus clearly teaches displaying a title bar of a dialog window when the cursor moves outside of the complete dialog window without depressing a button of the dialog window, wherein the title bar consumes a smaller area of the display device than the complete dialog window, and wherein the title bar is a size of and comprises a title bar of the

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dialog window. This displayed portion, e.g. the title bar, which is displayed after a cursor moves off of the window, is thus considered a collapsed version of the window. The independent claims recite that the collapsed version of the window is *displayed*. Whereas as other portions of the window of Janssen may remain activatable by the user once the cursor moves off of the window (i.e. the user may move the cursor onto hidden portions of the window to display the complete window again), they are not displayed, and are therefore not part of the collapsed version of the window.

Janssen further teaches displaying the complete dialog window when the cursor moves within the title bar of this collapsed version without depressing a button of the dialog window. As asserted by the Applicant, Janssen discloses that the complete dialog window is displayed when a user moves the cursor within the extent of the window, when the window, or portions thereof, is hidden. It is understood that such an extent includes the title bar of the window, i.e. the title bar of the collapsed version.

The Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 11, and 21 have thus been fully considered, but are not persuasive.

The Applicant asserts that the independent claims are generally directed to collapsing a dialog window, wherein moving the cursor within the collapsed version of the dialog window causes the complete dialog window to display. The Examiner respectfully notes, however, that the claims do not necessarily require such functionality, given their broadest, most reasonable interpretation. For example, claim 1 recites displaying a complete dialog window, determining a location of a cursor with respect to the window, displaying a collapsed version of the dialog window when the cursor moves outside of the complete dialog window, and displaying the

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complete dialog window when the cursor moves within the title bar of the collapsed version.

The claim however does not *require* the cursor to move outside of the complete dialog window, or to move within the title bar of the collapsed version. Thus given the broadest, most reasonable interpretation of the claim (i.e. taken if the cursor does not move outside of the complete dialog window without depressing a button of the dialog window, and if the cursor does not move within a title bar of the complete dialog window without depressing a button of the dialog window), claim 1 essentially requires only displaying a complete dialog window, and determining a location of a cursor with respect to the dialog window. As another example, claim 1 recites a dialog window, a complete dialog window, and a collapsed version of the dialog window. However, there is no requirement that these dialog windows are the same window, i.e. that the collapsed version of the dialog window replaces the complete dialog window when it is displayed, and vice-versa. Furthermore, claim 1 recites displaying a collapsed version of a dialog window when the cursor moves outside of the dialog window, and displaying the complete dialog window when the cursor moves within the title bar of the collapsed version. This does not necessarily entail, however, that moving the cursor outside of the dialog window causes the collapsed version to be displayed, and that moving the cursor within the title bar of the collapsed version causes the complete dialog window to be displayed. Rather, claim 1 only requires that, while the cursor moves outside of a complete dialog window, the collapsed version is displayed, and while the cursor moves within the title bar of the collapsed version, the complete dialog window is displayed. The Examiner also respectfully notes that “when the cursor moves outside of the complete dialog window,” as recited in claim 1, does not necessarily entail moving the cursor from within the dialog window to outside of the dialog window.

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Similarly, “when the cursor moves within the title bar of the collapsed version,” as recited in claim 1, does not necessarily entail moving the cursor from outside the title bar to within the title bar.

Regarding claims 7, 17, and 27, the Applicant argues that Janssen teaches displaying, in the background, radar information that does not have any user interaction, and which would therefore not require focus. The Applicant also asserts that the user would be incapable of working in Janssen’s background since the complete window would be displayed on top of the background as soon as the cursor is moved into the area. The Applicant thus concludes that Janssen teaches away from reverting the focus to another window when the collapsed version of the dialog window is displayed, as is claimed. While the Examiner respectfully disagrees with this conclusion, in order to advance prosecution of the Application, the Examiner notes that Wandersleben (U.S. Patent No. 6,583,390, to Wandersleben et al.), presented in the previous Office Action, teaches working in the background window under a dialog window, which is collapsible like the window of Janssen. Accordingly, the Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 7, 17, and 27 have been considered but are moot in view of the following new grounds of rejection, which include the teachings of Wandersleben.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1, 7, 11, 17, 21, and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1, 11, and 21, each express displaying a collapsed version of a dialog window that consumes a smaller area of a display device than a complete dialog window, and wherein the collapsed version of the dialog window is a size of and comprises a title bar of the dialog widow. Given the broadest, most reasonable interpretation of these claims (whereby the collapsed version of the dialog window is a size of the dialog window), it is unclear how the collapsed version of the dialog window consumes a smaller area of the display than the complete dialog window, and is a size of the dialog window. Claims 7, 17, and 27 each recite “reverting focus to and continue working in another window.” However, there is no previous “working” recited in these claims, or in any claim upon which these claims depend, and therefore it is unclear what the “working” in claim 7 is a continuation of.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1, 3-6, 9, 11, 13-16, 19, 21, 23-26, and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,512,529, which is attributed to Janssen et al. (and hereafter referred to as “Janssen”). In general, Janssen provides a method for viewing a high volume of information within a computer display screen. This method entails viewing information organized within a plurality of windows, with windows overlapping other windows, whereby the user may designate particular windows to be invisible, in order to view information within overlapped windows (see column 2, line 29 – column 2, line 31). It is understood that the types of such windows are arbitrary, and may therefore comprise dialog windows, a common and well-known window type.

Specifically regarding claims 1, 11, and 21, Janssen teaches: displaying a window of a currently active application on a display device; determining a location of a cursor with respect to the window; making the window, or portions thereof, invisible when the cursor moves outside of the window without depressing a button of the window; and displaying the complete window when the cursor moves within the extent of the window, without depressing a button of the window (for example, see column 2, line 33 – column 3, line 20; column 4, line 56 – column 5, line 9). Janssen further teaches that, when the cursor moves outside of the window, only a title

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bar of the window may be displayed (for example, see column 2, line 59 – column 3, line 4).

Such a displayed a window is considered a collapsed version of the window, which is a size of, and comprises a title bar of, the dialog window. Moreover, as Janssen discloses that the complete dialog window is displayed when the cursor moves anywhere within the extent of the window, which includes this title bar, Janssen further is considered to teach displaying the complete window when the cursor moves within the title bar of the collapsed version of the window without depressing a button of the window. As asserted above, it is understood that such teachings may apply to dialog windows, a well-known type of window in the art.

Accordingly, Janssen teaches a computer-implemented method for collapsing a dialog window of an application, the method comprising: displaying a complete dialog window of a currently active application on a display device; determining a location of a cursor with respect to the dialog window; displaying a collapsed version of the dialog window when the cursor moves outside of the complete dialog window without depressing a button of the dialog window, wherein the display of the collapsed version of the dialog window consumes a smaller area of the display device than the complete dialog window and wherein the collapsed version of the dialog window is a size of and comprises a title bar of the dialog window; and displaying the complete dialog window when the cursor moves within the title bar of the collapsed version of the dialog window without depressing a button of the dialog window, like recited in claim 1. Janssen further discloses that such teachings may be implemented as software, presumably stored in computer memory and executed by a computer (see column 4, lines 5-40). Such computer memory comprising software to implement the teachings of Janssen is considered an “article of

manufacture,” like described in claim 11. A computer executing the software in order to implement the teachings of Janssen is considered a system like that described in claim 21.

Concerning claims 3, 5, 13, 15, 23, and 25, Janssen teaches that the collapsed version of the may comprise only a title bar of the window (for example, see column 2, line 59 – column 3, line 4). As shown in figure 3 of Janssen, for example, such a title bar may comprise a size that exactly encompasses a title of the dialog window and its system buttons (see the title bar, designated by reference number 11 in figure 3). It is understood that the title bar is displayed in the same position when the window is collapsed (for example, see figures 2-4, and their associated description in column 4, line 43 – column 5, line 9). Accordingly, Janssen teaches that the collapsed version of the window may be displayed such that system buttons, within the title bar of the window, are in the same position in the collapsed version of the window as when the complete window is displayed, wherein the system buttons do not move away from the cursor when the window collapsed or expands.

With respect to claims 4, 6, 14, 16, 24, and 26, Janssen discloses that the user may make a window invisible, i.e. collapsed, simply by moving a cursor off the window, and may make the window visible again simply by moving the cursor over the collapsed version of the window (for example, see column 2, line 59 – column 3, line 20; column 4, line 56 – column 5, line 9). Accordingly, it is understood that the collapsed version of the window is displayed in response to the cursor moving outside of the window without additional action by the user, and the complete window is displayed when the cursor moves within the collapsed version of the window without additional action by the user.

Regarding claims 9, 19, and 29, Janssen discloses that the title bar of each window may comprise a button which may be activated to select a particular display mode for the window. In one such display mode, referred to as the "Normal" display mode, the associated window behaves as described above: the window collapses when the cursor is moved off the window, and becomes visible when the cursor moves over the collapsed version of the window (see column 3 lines 5-29; and column 5, lines 9-48). In another display mode, referred to as the "Locked" display mode, the associated window always remains visible, as a complete window (see column 3 lines 5-29; and column 5, lines 9-48). Accordingly, Janssen teaches that the ability to display a collapsed version of a window is controlled by a selectable system icon displayed in a title bar of that window: when the selectable system icon is selected as active, i.e. in a Normal display mode, the ability to display a collapsed version of the window through further cursor movement without depressing a button of the window is active; and when the selectable system icon is not selected and is inactive, i.e. in a Locked display mode, the complete window is displayed and the ability to collapse the dialog window through further cursor movement without depressing a button of the window is disabled.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 8, 10, 18, 20, 28, and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over The U.S. Patent of Janssen, which is described above, and also over U.S. Patent No. 6,583,390, which is attributed to Wandersleben et al. (and hereafter referred to as "Wandersleben"). As described above, Janssen teaches a method like that of claim 1, an article of manufacture like that of claim 11, and a system like that of claim 21, whereby the user may collapse a dialog window simply by moving a cursor off of the window. Janssen, however, does not explicitly disclose that the collapsed version of the dialog window is displayed when the cursor moves outside of the dialog window for a defined minimum time period, defined by an application that displays the dialog window, as is expressed in claims 8, 18, and 28. Also, Janssen also does not explicitly disclose that the dialog window is a modeless dialog window, as is recited in claims 10, 20, and 30.

Like Janssen, Wandersleben presents a method similar to that of claim 1, whereby a user may collapse a dialog window simply by moving a cursor off of the window (for example, see column 2, lines 20-49). Regarding the claimed invention, Wandersleben discloses that the user may specify a grace period defining the amount of time required for the cursor to be off of the window, before the window collapses (for example, see column 5, lines 33-51; and column 6,

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lines 30-57). Additionally, Wandersleben discloses that such teachings may be applied to non-model, i.e. modeless dialog windows (for example, see column 2, lines 20-49).

It would have therefore been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Janssen and Wandersleben before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the method of Janssen such that the user may define a grace period, like taught by Wandersleben, as this would prevent the user from inadvertently collapsing dialog boxes, as is demonstrated by Wandersleben. Additionally, it would have been obvious to apply the method of Janssen to modeless dialog boxes, like taught by Wandersleben, because there exists a need to temporarily hide such modeless dialog boxes, as is taught by Wandersleben.

Claims 7, 17, and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Janssen and Wandersleben, which is described above, and also over the Microsoft Word 2000 application, presented in a previous Office Action. As described above, Janssen teaches a method like that of claim 1, an article of manufacture like that of claim 11, and a system like that of claim 21, whereby the user may collapse a dialog window by simply moving a cursor off of the window. Wandersleben teaches that such methods may be implemented with non-modal dialog boxes, to hide the dialog boxes from view, in order to *work* within a window under the dialog boxes (for example, see column 2, lines 9-33; and column 4, lines 22-50). Neither Janssen nor Wandersleben, however, explicitly disclose that the focus is reverted to the window without additional action by the user when the collapsed version of the dialog window is displayed, as is recited in claims 7, 17, and 27.

Nevertheless such functionality is well known in the art. For example, screenshot 2 of Word shows a dialog box open in Word, and screenshot 3 is the result of minimizing the dialog box of screenshot 2. No further action was taken, and it is clear that the displayed window, Document 1, of Word has focus as evidenced by the depressed representation in the taskbar and that the collapsed version of the dialog window is displayed (the rightmost application displayed in the taskbar is screenshot 3).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to automatically revert focus to another window of the currently active application of Janssen when the collapsed version of the dialog window is displayed, as is taught by Word, in order to eliminate the need to click on the window to restore focus.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record on form PTO-892 and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The applicant is required under 37 C.F.R. §1.111(C) to consider these references fully when responding to this action. The Bates et al. reference cited therein teaches automatically reverting focus to a background window when a cursor is moved off of a foreground window, like expressed in claims 7, 17, and 27.

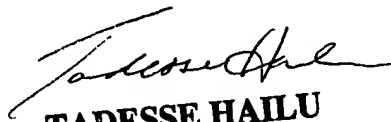
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Blaine Basom whose telephone number is (571) 272-4044. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid can be reached on (571) 272-4063. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

btb
6/9/2006



TADESSE HAILU
Patent Examiner